

5.3.2.6 Cavalry Section

“Cavalry” Structure

This is a large neatly constructed stone-walled enclosed area with a wide opening (approximately 6m wide) to the east. Only three of the four sides are still standing and consists of a double row of stone-packed walls with a ± 3 m wide space between the two walls to form an enclosed channel that presumably ran right around to form a courtyard space in the middle. The eastern and southern sides have only one opening to these areas facing the courtyard area of the enclosed area. The foundations on the northern side are too low to determine whether it had a similar opening. The western corner of the southern wall still has a portion of the original wall constructed of sun-dried mudstone brick on top and it is assumed the stone walls served as foundation for these walls. These foundation walls were constructed with large stones filled with smaller stones and blue gravel (similar to that found on the mine dumps) in-between. No associated midden (rubbish dump) could be found in the vicinity. Apparently a large amount of old horse shoes were collected from this area over the years. Feeding troughs constructed of wood and long strips of metal sheets fashioned into a hollow shape suggests an area where animals were kept. It is, however, possible that the latter could have been a later edition and therefore might be a secondary use.

According to the war records the British occupied Jagersfontein during the Anglo-Boer War and used the old mine dumps as entrenchments. If this area was not constructed by the miners then it might have been constructed during this time to stable the cavalry soldiers' horses. The mine itself also made extensive use of horses for a variety of reasons ranging from pulling the rollers that compacted and ploughed the floors areas to patrolling the mining area.

On the outside of the western wall are a long thin cement foundation and a scatter of more modern bricks.

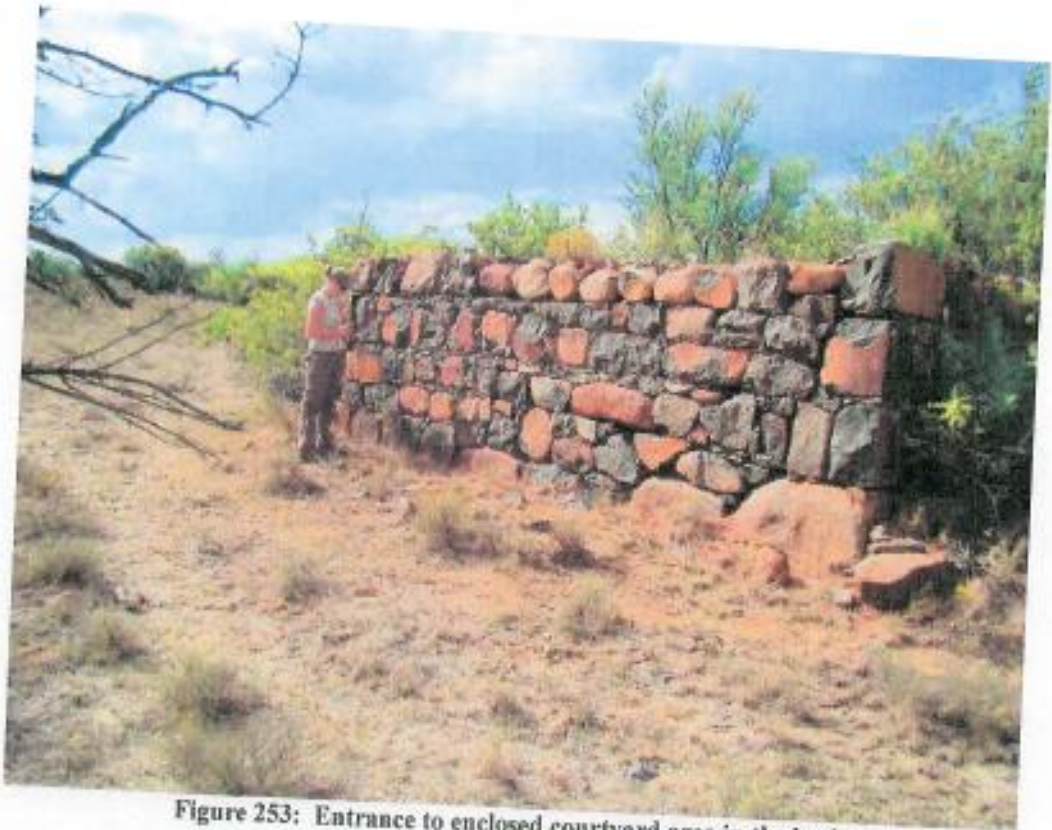


Figure 253: Entrance to enclosed courtyard area in the back



Figure 254: View from outside of southern wall with northern boundary wall in the background

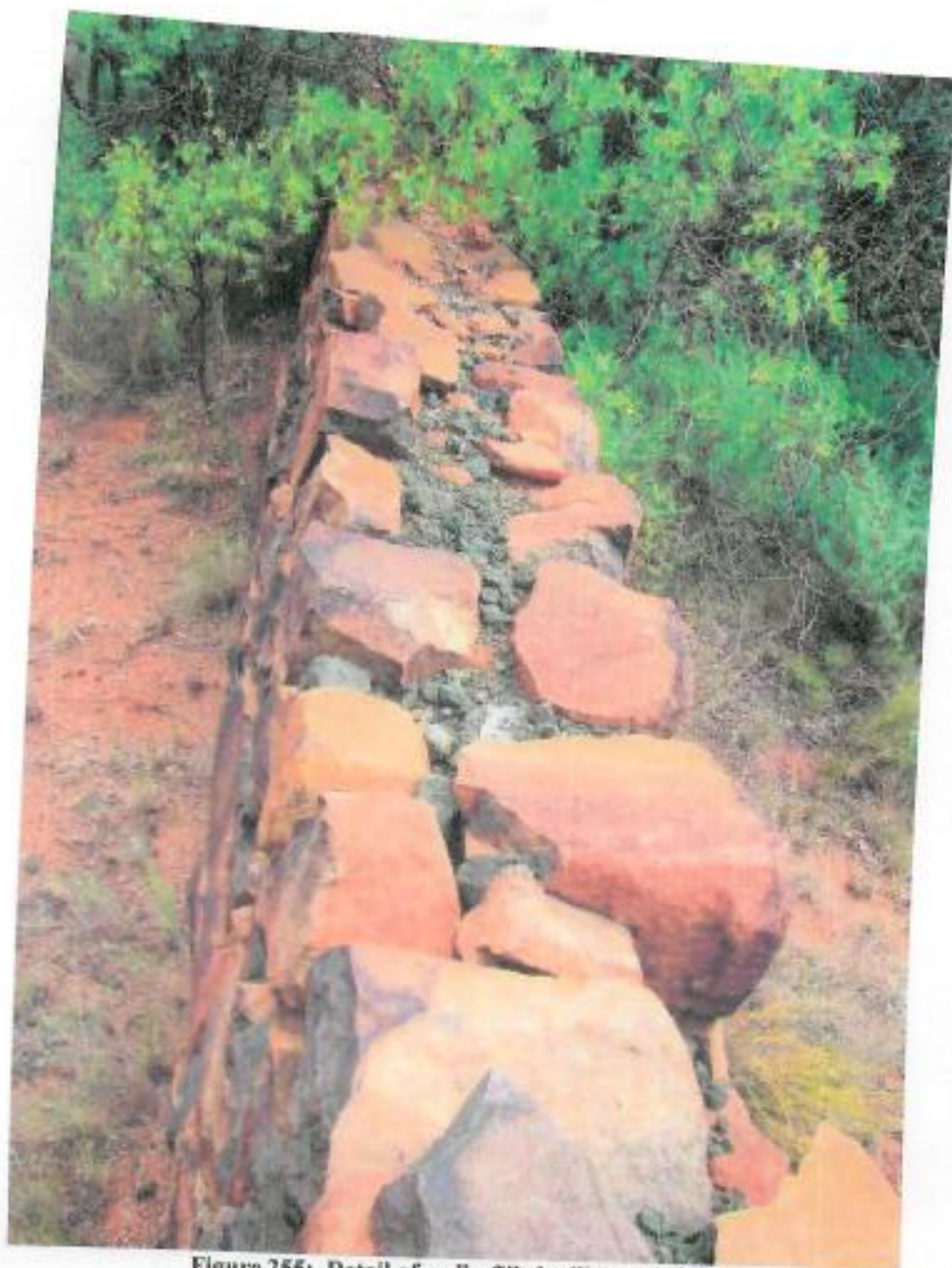


Figure 255: Detail of wall - filled will blue gravel



Figure 256: Detail of constructed stone wall (1)



Figure 257: Detail of construction



Figure 258: Long narrow "Channel" (rooms or stalls) formed by the double wall



Figure 259: Entrance from courtyard side of larger enclosed area to the "channel" area (southern wall)



Figure 260: As Above

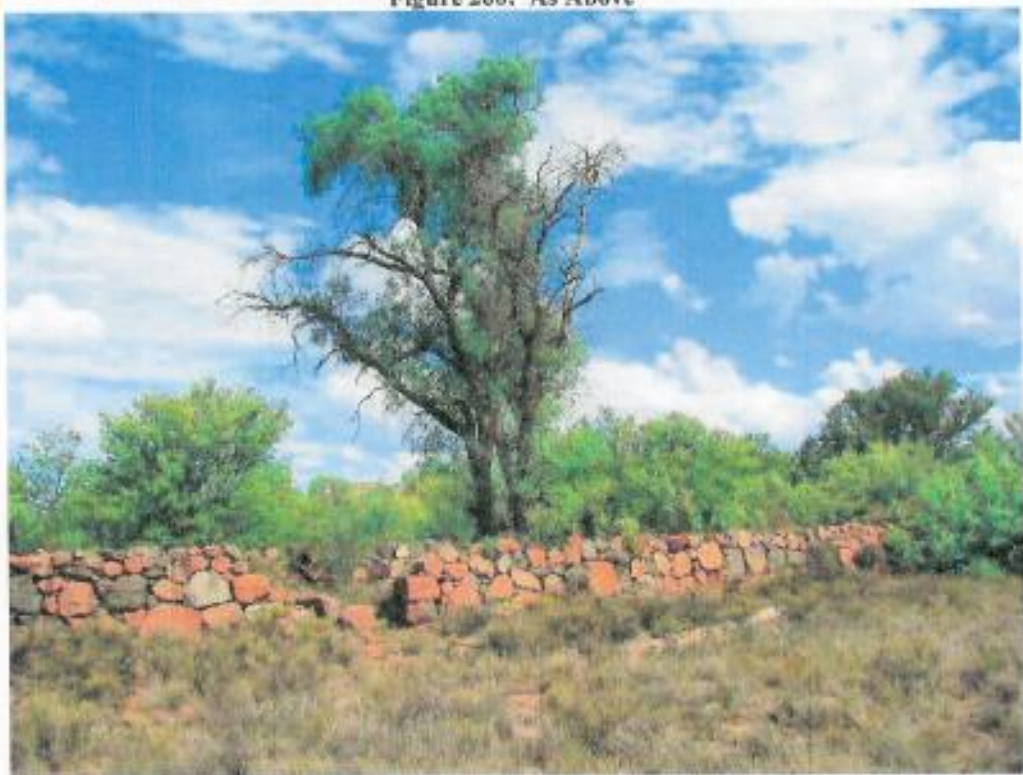


Figure 261: Entrance from enclosed courtyard area to "channel" in eastern wall



Figure 262: Large opening (on right hand side in photograph) in eastern wall viewed from inside the enclosed courtyard area



Figure 263: Remains of sun-dried mudstone bricks on top of stone foundation wall



Figure 264: Scatter of "modern" bricks on outside of western wall



Figure 265: Portion of cement slab on outside of western wall



Figure 266: Industrial sized bolt and nut found on outside of northern wall



Figure 267: Metal engraved disc (with cross in the centre) found in the area. (Possibly the back or cover of a men's pocket watch)

“Cement slab” hill and surrounding area

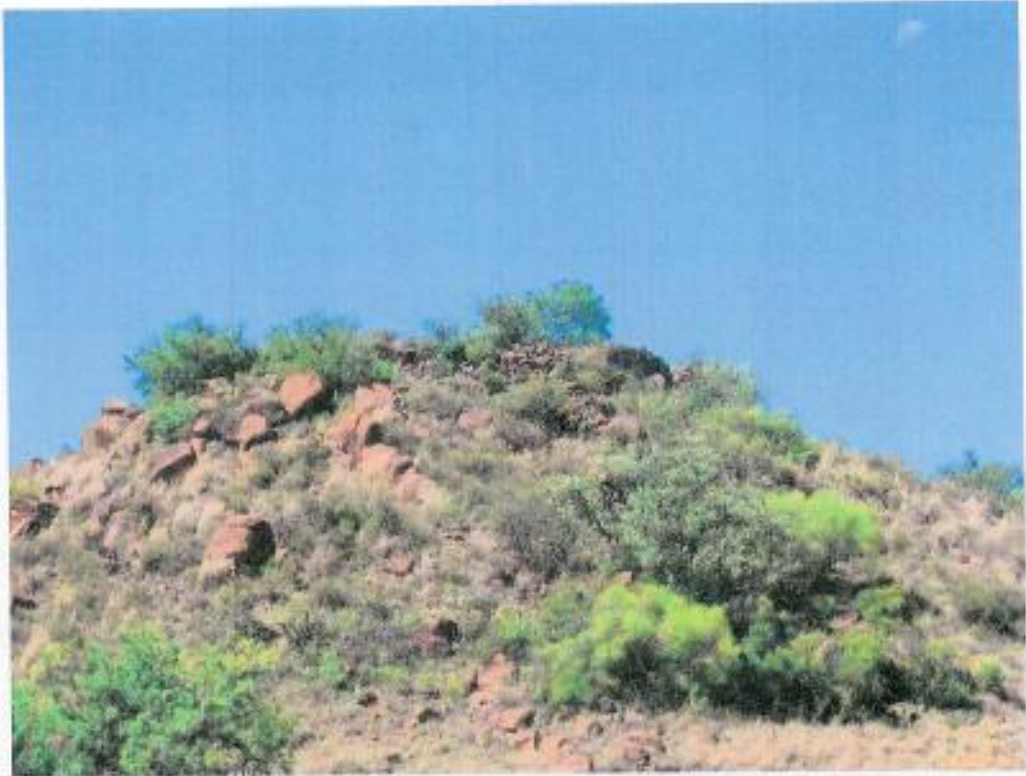


Figure 268: Southern side of hill (orientation north). Note stone terraces near top.



Figure 269: Cement slab on top of hill.



Figure 270: Terraced northern side of hill

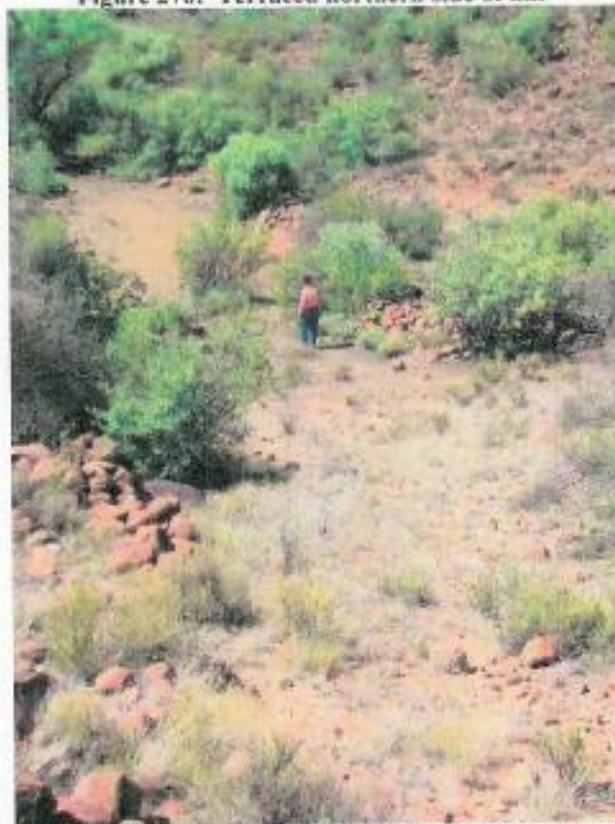


Figure 271: To the right (viewed from the top) of the terraced side is a wide pathway up the hill with a packed stone wall on the sides

At the northern side of the hill are the remains of a large rectangular stone-foundation building and a smaller square cement-foundation building.

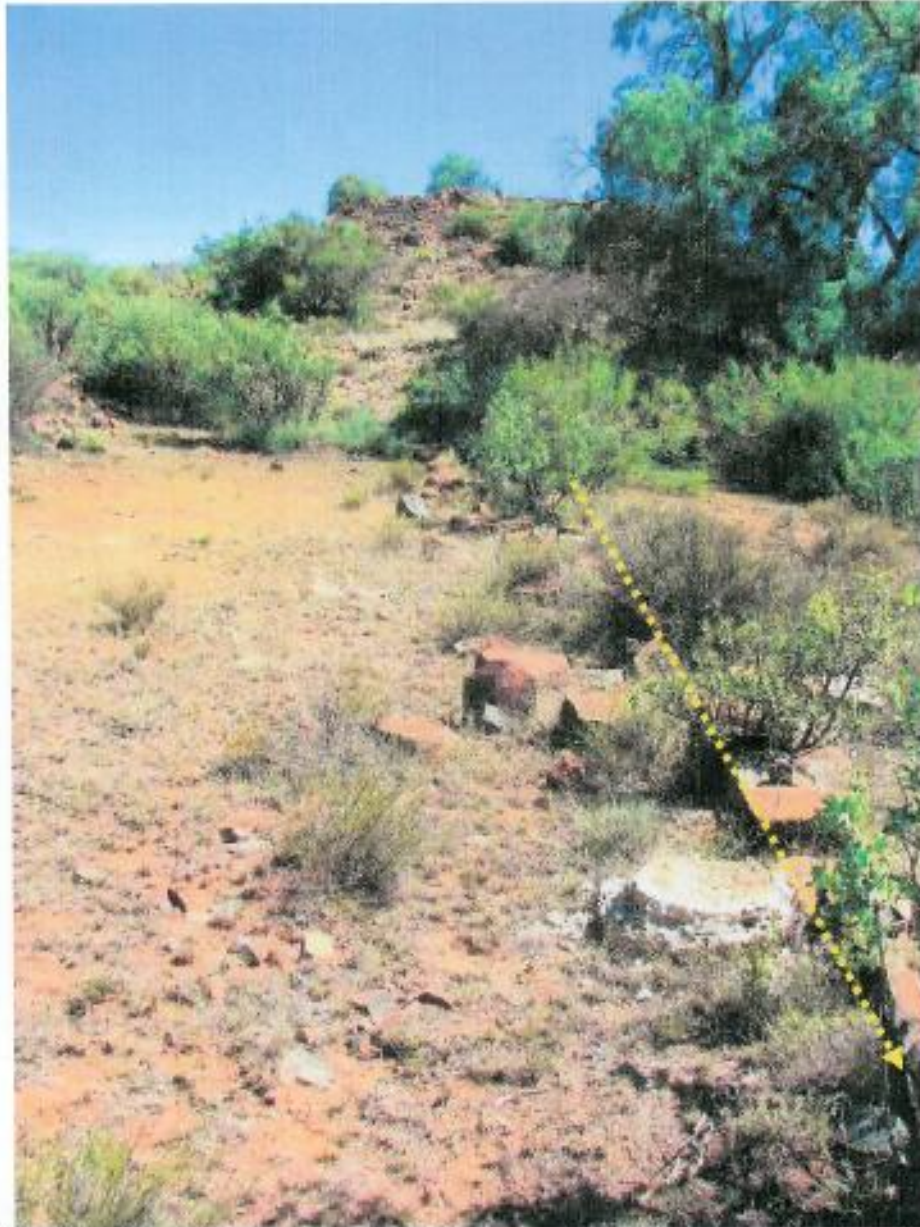


Figure 272: View from side of rectangular building towards hill. Line indicates eastern boundary of the stone foundation of the long rectangular structure



Figure 273: Semi-circular stone steps indicate that the long rectangular building faced west. Solid line indicates threshold whereas broken line indicates edge of curved step

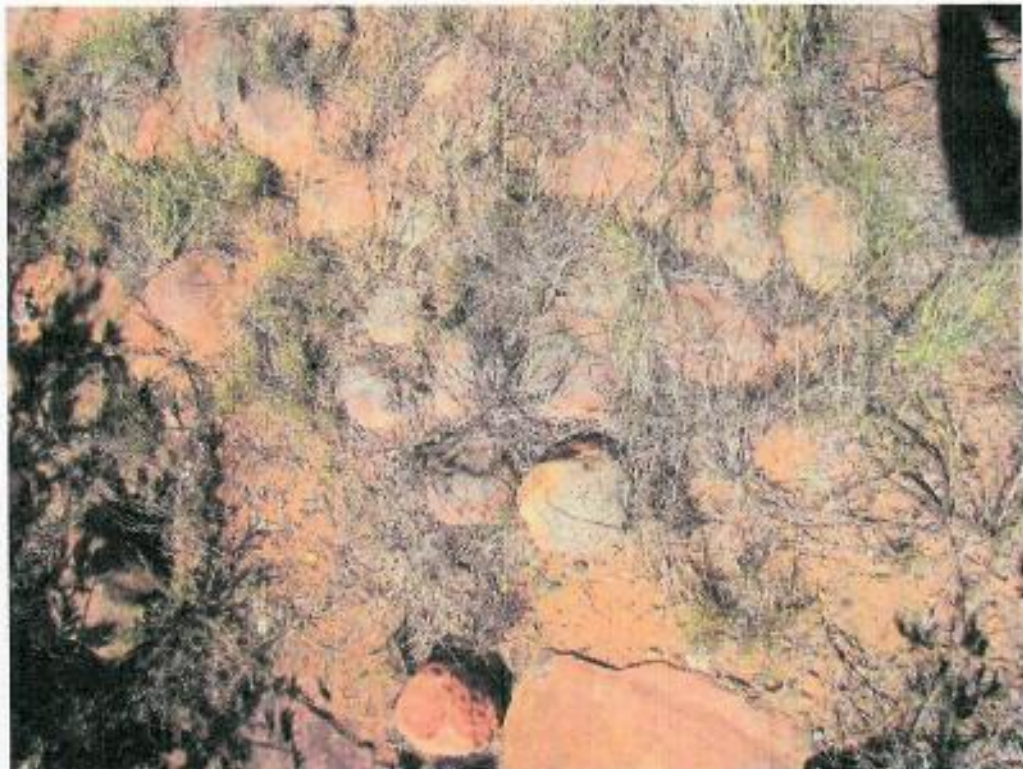


Figure 274: Close-up of packed stone floor on inside of structure



Figure 275: North-eastern cornerstone of rectangular stone-foundation building



Figure 276: Cement foundation with pipe - immediately north of rectangular stone-foundation building

Surface finds in area of afore-mentioned buildings

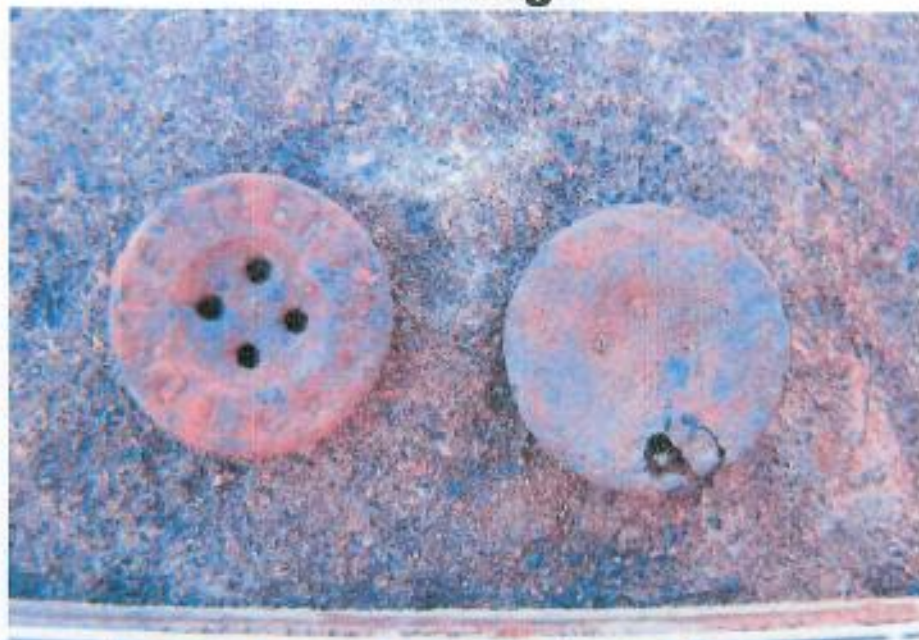


Figure 277: On left side a button with the inscription "**** For Gentlemen"



Figure 278: Back of buttons in figure 277

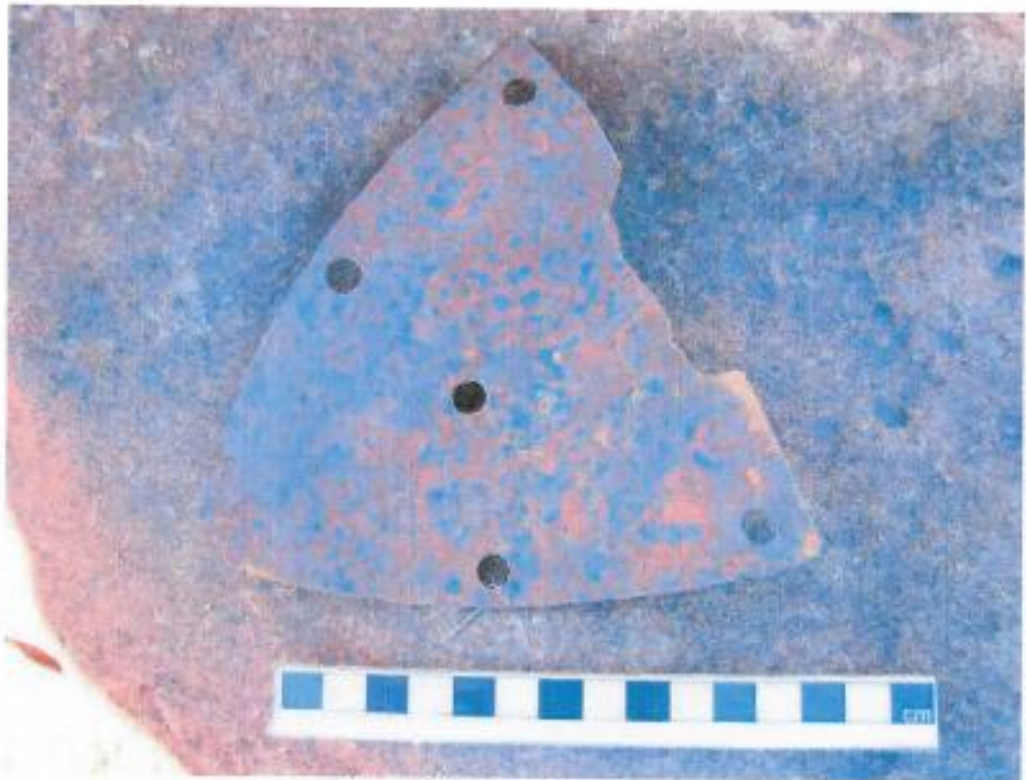


Figure 279: Part of a metal tool



Figure 280

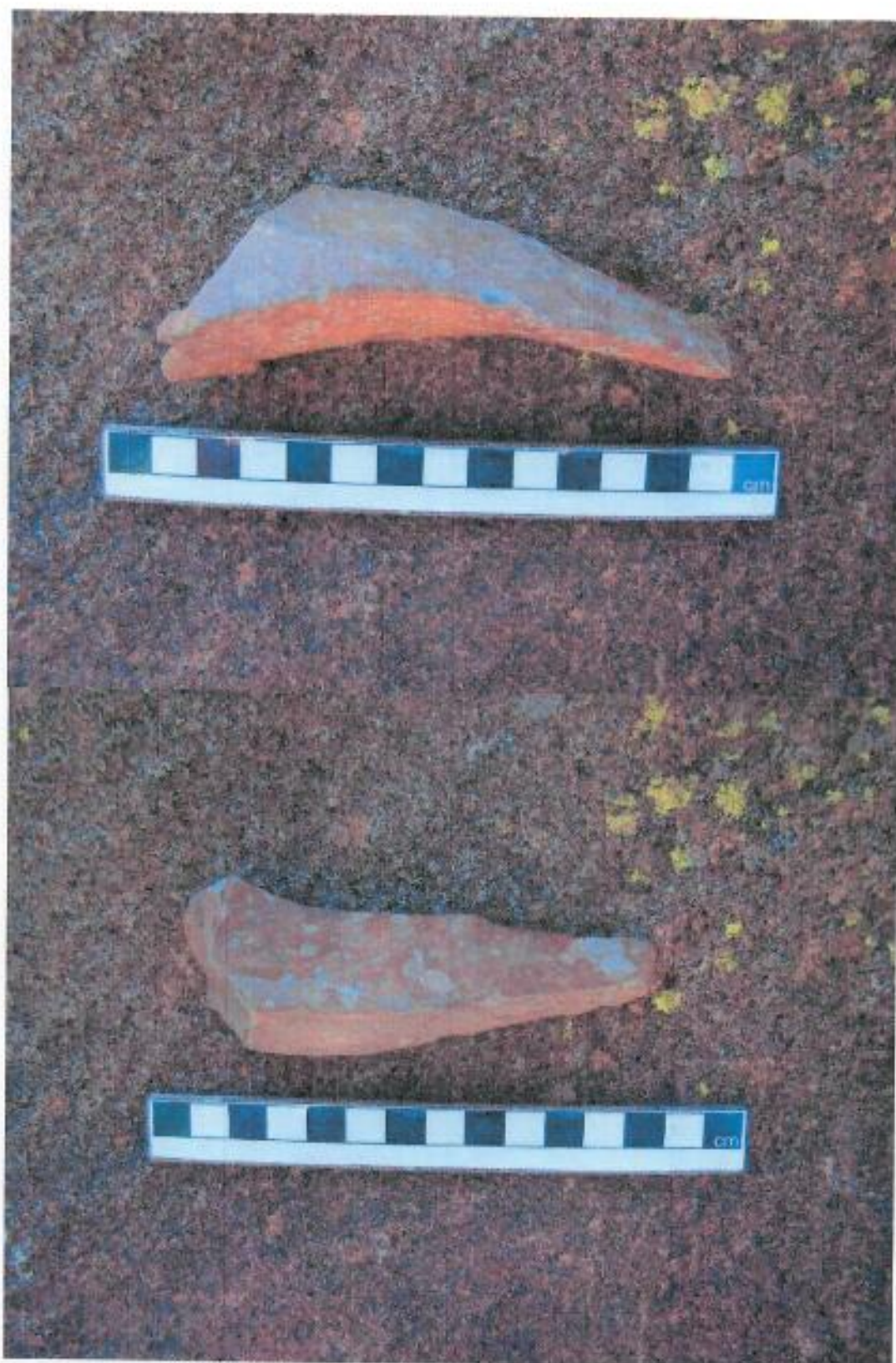


Figure 281: Front and side views of very weathered stone tool



Figure 282: Mid-section of a female figurine



Figure 283: Suspender button

Unidentified Mudstone Structure

Purported to be the remains of the original farmhouse this structure is situated on the western side of the open pit mine at the hang of a low ridge. (Refer to map on page 229.) The sun-dried mudstone bricks are laid on a foundation of stone and a course plaster on both the interior and exterior affixed by means of nails. A portion of the southern wall also contains more modern bricks. The latter would appear to have been affixed to the inside wall only – definitely a later addition to the structure. On the southern side of the mudstone structure are the remains of a cement foundation. Surface finds include pieces of different sized mesh such as was used in the early days of diamond mining, pieces of ceramic dating from the turn of the 19th century, pieces of an old mouth organ, an ornamental keyhole fixture fashioned out of embossed metal as well as MSA stone tools.



Figure 284: Eastern face of the remains (orientation south-west)

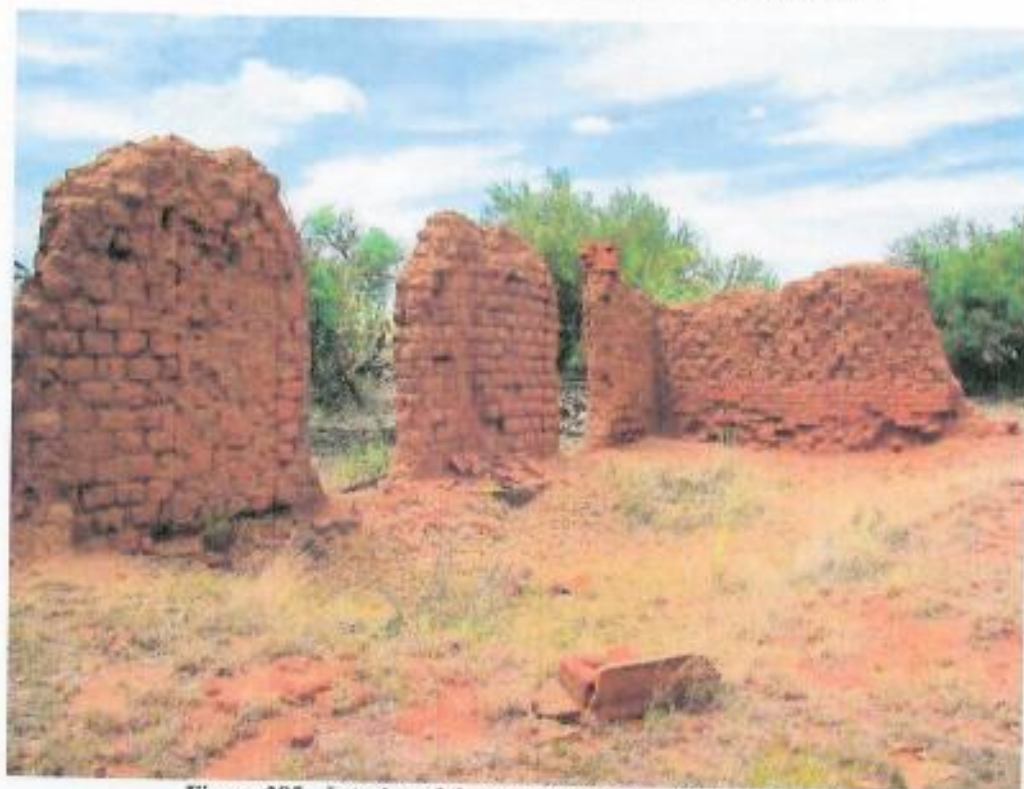


Figure 285: Interior of the remains (orientation south-east)



Figure 286: Interior of southern wall showing holes where plaster was affixed

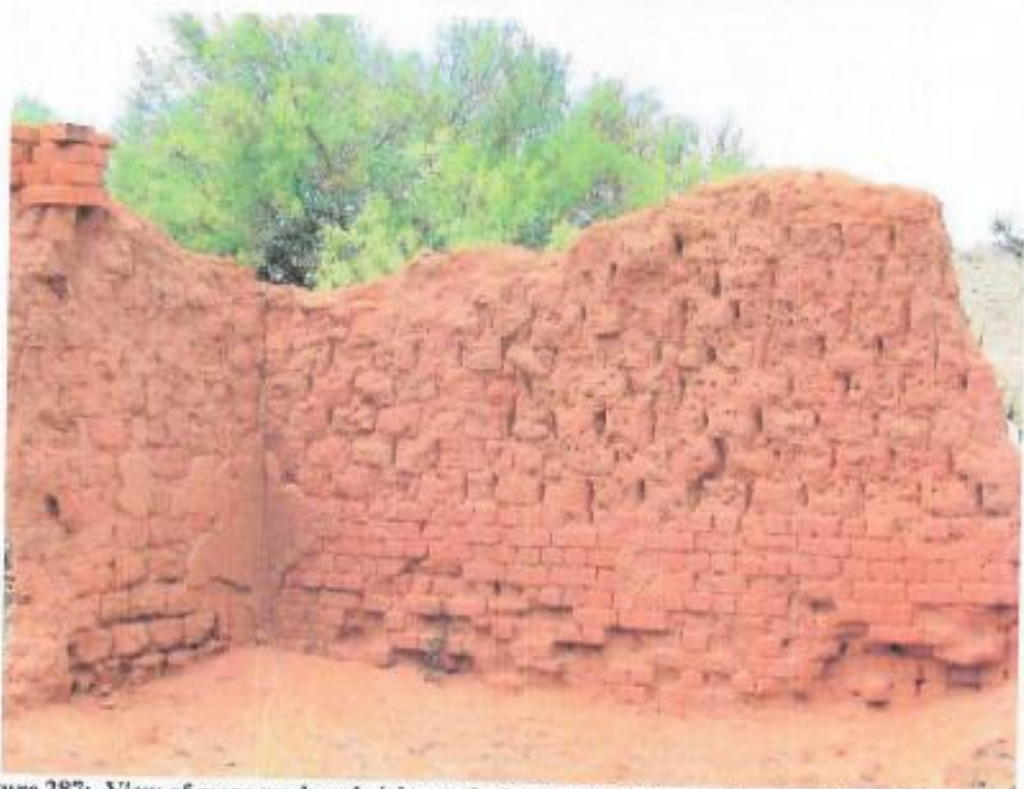


Figure 287: View of more modern bricks on the lower end of the southern wall as well as on top of the wall section on the eastern side



Figure 288: Stone foundation visible



Figure 289: Stone foundation with plaster over mudstone bricks



Figure 290: Detail of method plaster was affixed to the walls



Figure 291: Remains of cement foundation on southern side of structure (orientation north-east)



Figure 292: Fashioned square in exterior side of southern wall



Figure 293: Nail similar to those used to affix plaster to walls



Figure 294: Mesh



Figure 295: Two different sized pieces of mesh



Figure 296: Mesh



Figure 297: MSA Stone Tools

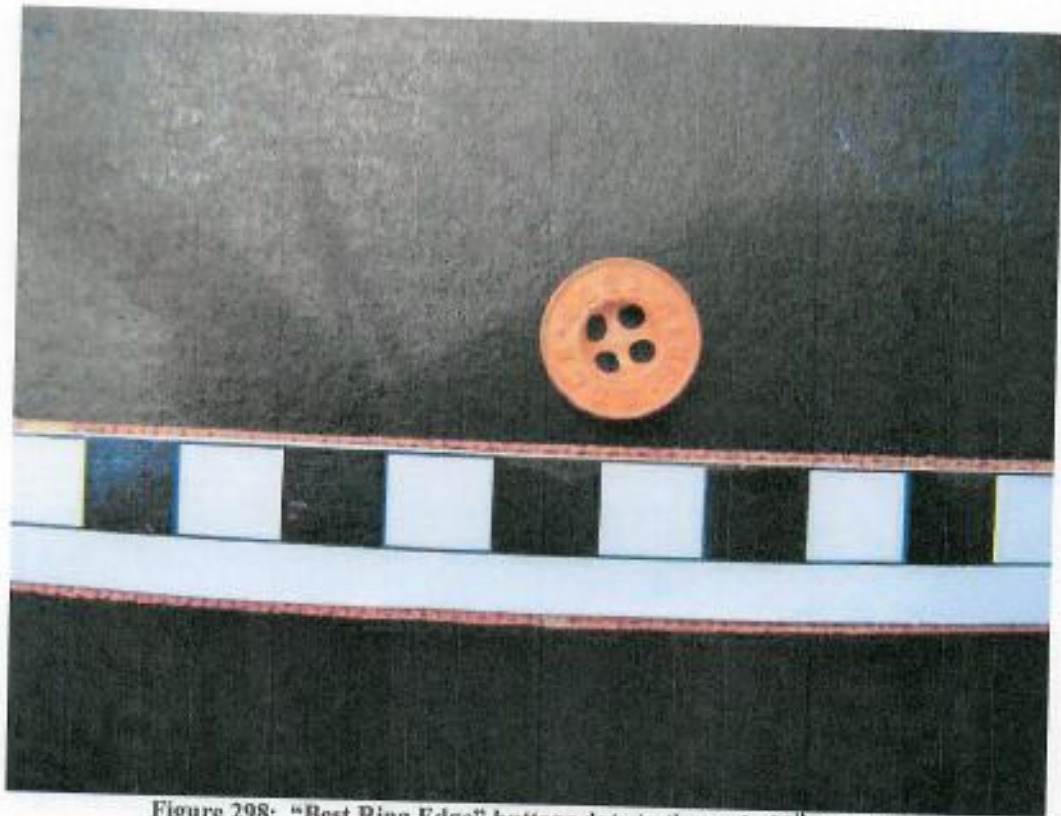


Figure 298: "Best Ring Edge" buttons date to the early 20th century



Figure 299: Decorative metal keyhole cover



Figure 300: Fragments of sponge decorated whiteware (Decorating with patterns using cut sponges was introduced in the 1840s and was used throughout the 19th century into the 20th.)



Figure 301: A variety of surface finds ranging from old metal buttons, ceramic sherds dating from late 19th to early 20th century to 19th century bottle stoppers and pieces of a mouth organ.

Pump House

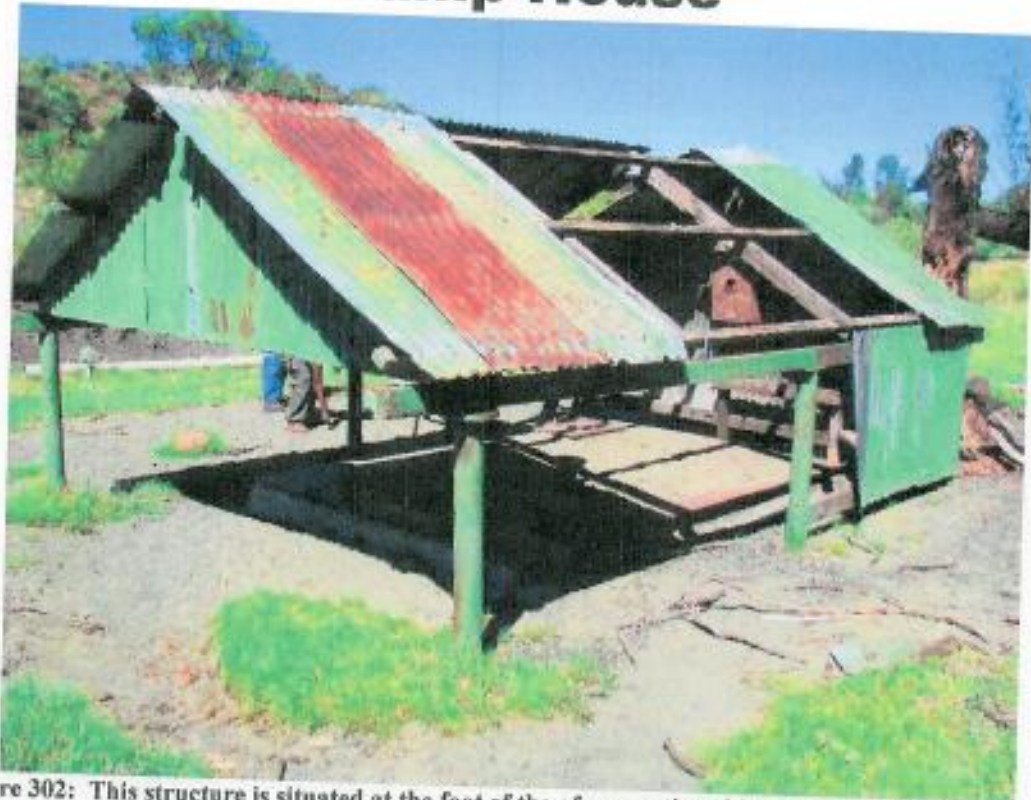


Figure 302: This structure is situated at the foot of the aforementioned hill with the cement structure on top



Figure 303: Electrical switchboard on inside of pump house

Dam with trough



Figure 304

Old (Water?) Shaft

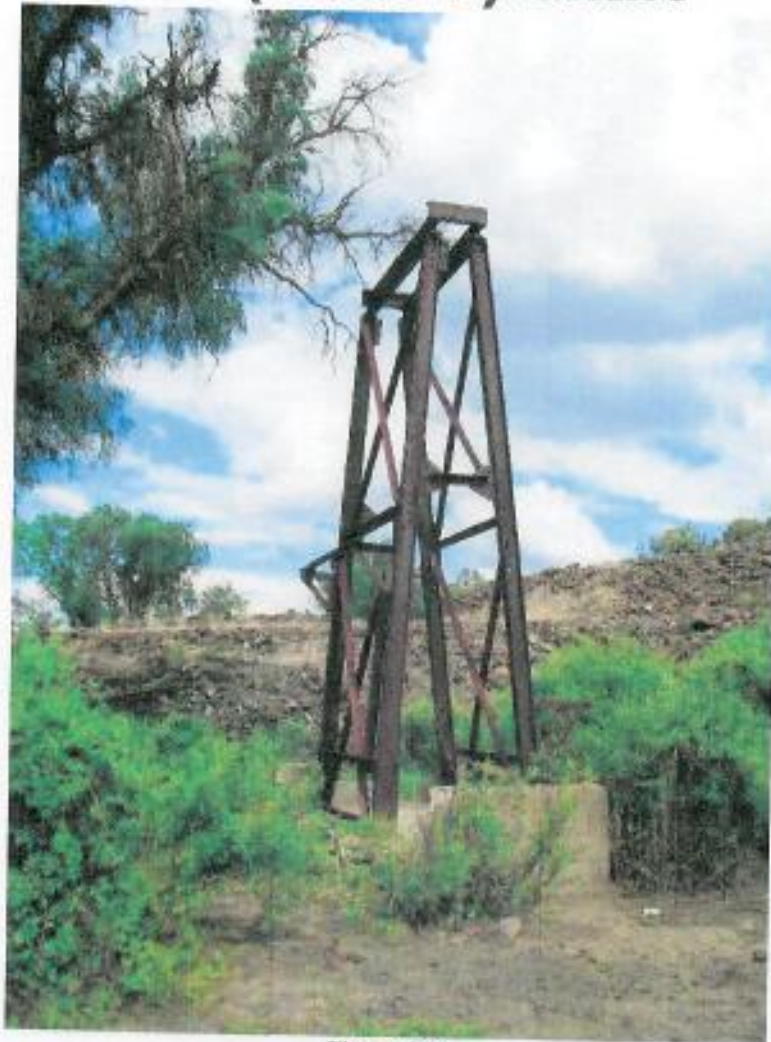
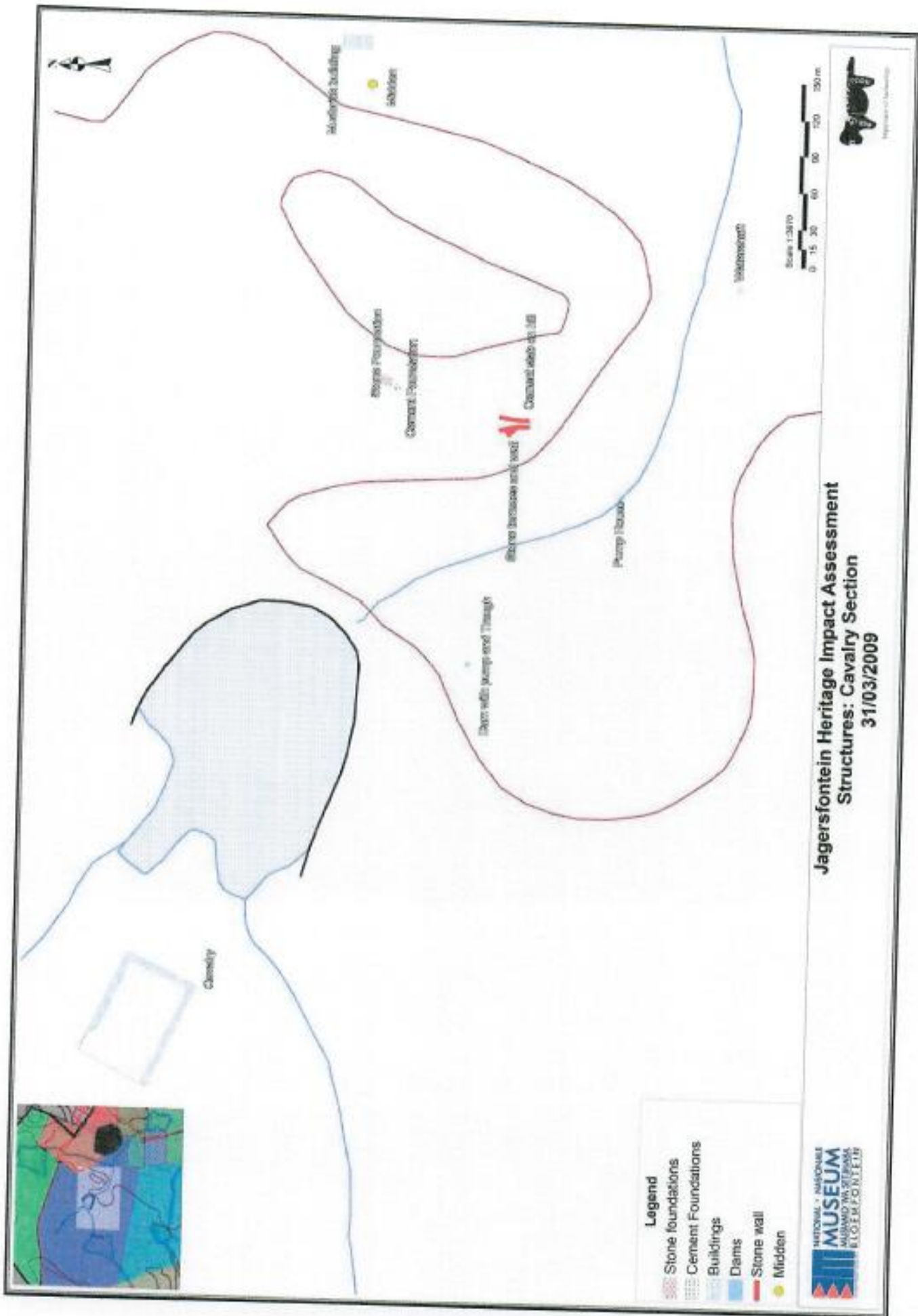


Figure 305



5.3.2.7 Hospital Section

Stone-walled "Farmstead"

On the eastern slopes approximately 360 m north of the mud structure discussed in the previous section, are the remains of a stone-wall enclosed area. Although the exact purpose of this structure is not known the lay-out of the site is that of a typical farmyard of the 1800's. The farmyard would normally have been enclosed with a low stone wall to contain free roaming fowl such as chickens and the main house would have been in the central area with a row of smaller rooms forming the back wall of the enclosed farm yard. These rooms would have served a variety of purposes such as slaughter/cold room, laundry room, milk room, etc. In this instance a rectangular area is enclosed with a low stone wall and the western boundary is formed by the remains of a row of adjoining areas (which might have had high walls and a roof) of which at least four different areas could be discerned.

In the central area of the enclosed "farmyard" are the remains of what might have been the main house. For the purpose of this report it will be referred to as the house of the farmstead. From the remains it would seem that the house faced east and had on at least the northern and eastern side a verandah with wide steps (constructed from slate stone) that led up to the house from the eastern side. Of this side of the structure only the eastern and northern stone foundations remain. On the southern side, however, set a couple of meters back in a westerly direction from the front section, extends a wing of which some of the bricks are still *in situ* on top of the stone foundation.



Figure 306: DBMC archive picture of the old Diggers Hospital - (Orientation south-west). The remains discussed in this section are possibly that of the buildings in the encircled area.

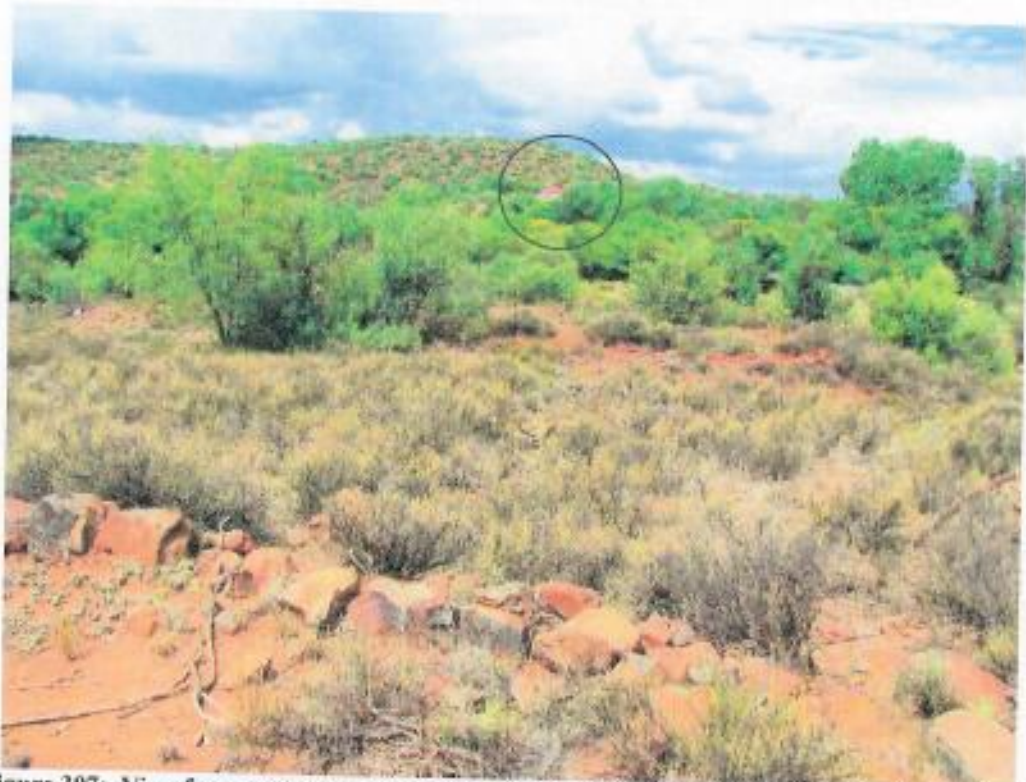


Figure 307: View from centre structure (house?) orientation a north-easterly direction with old Diggers' Hospital encircled



Figure 308: Entrance to enclosed "farmstead" area on southern side (orientation south)



Figure 309: Section of boundary wall (orientation south-east)



Figure 310: Bricks of collapsed "southern wing" of the house (orientation east)

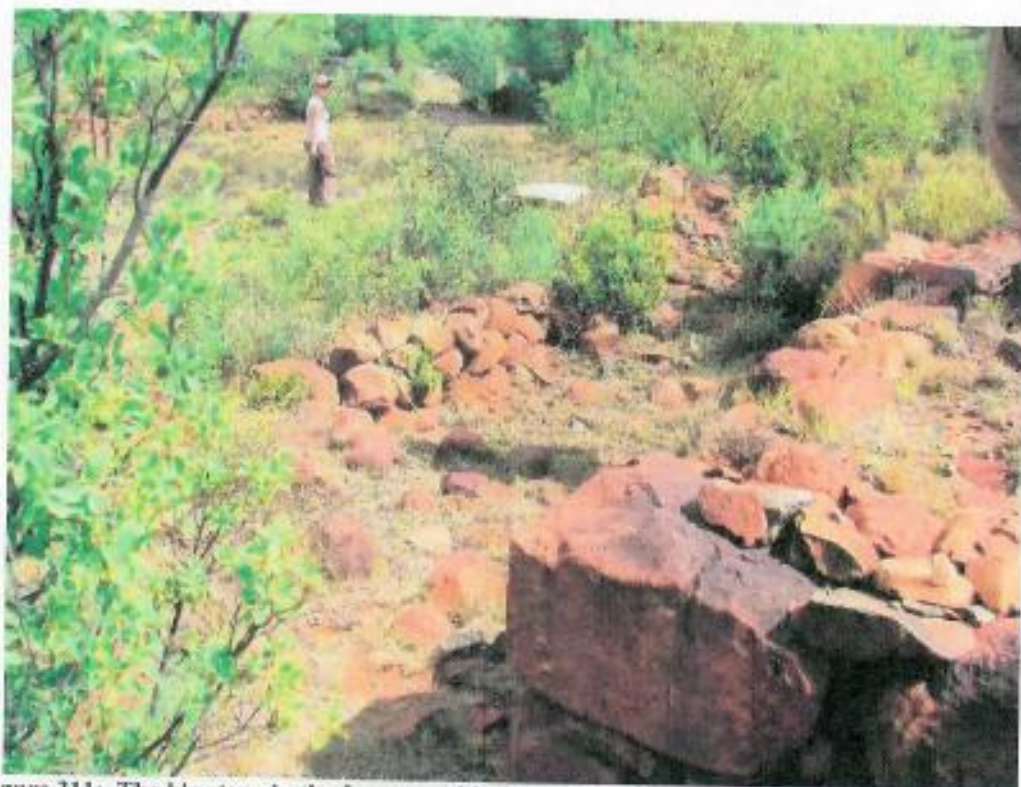


Figure 311: The big stone in the foreground is the north-eastern corner of the house – the row of stones in front of that is the eastern section of what appears to be a verandah – from the remains this verandah ran along at least the northern and eastern side



Figure 312: North-eastern corner of house viewed from the eastern side – arrows indicate boundary of verandah

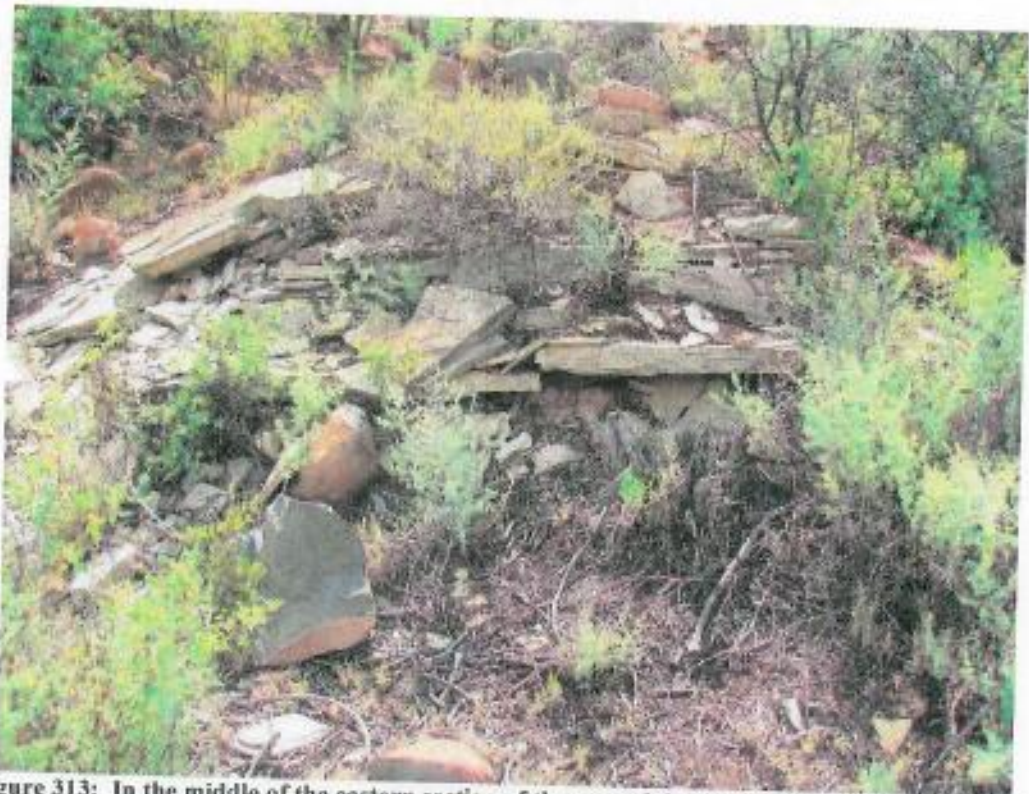


Figure 313: In the middle of the eastern section of the verandah is an opening with a pile of slate stone that appears to have been steps leading up to the verandah

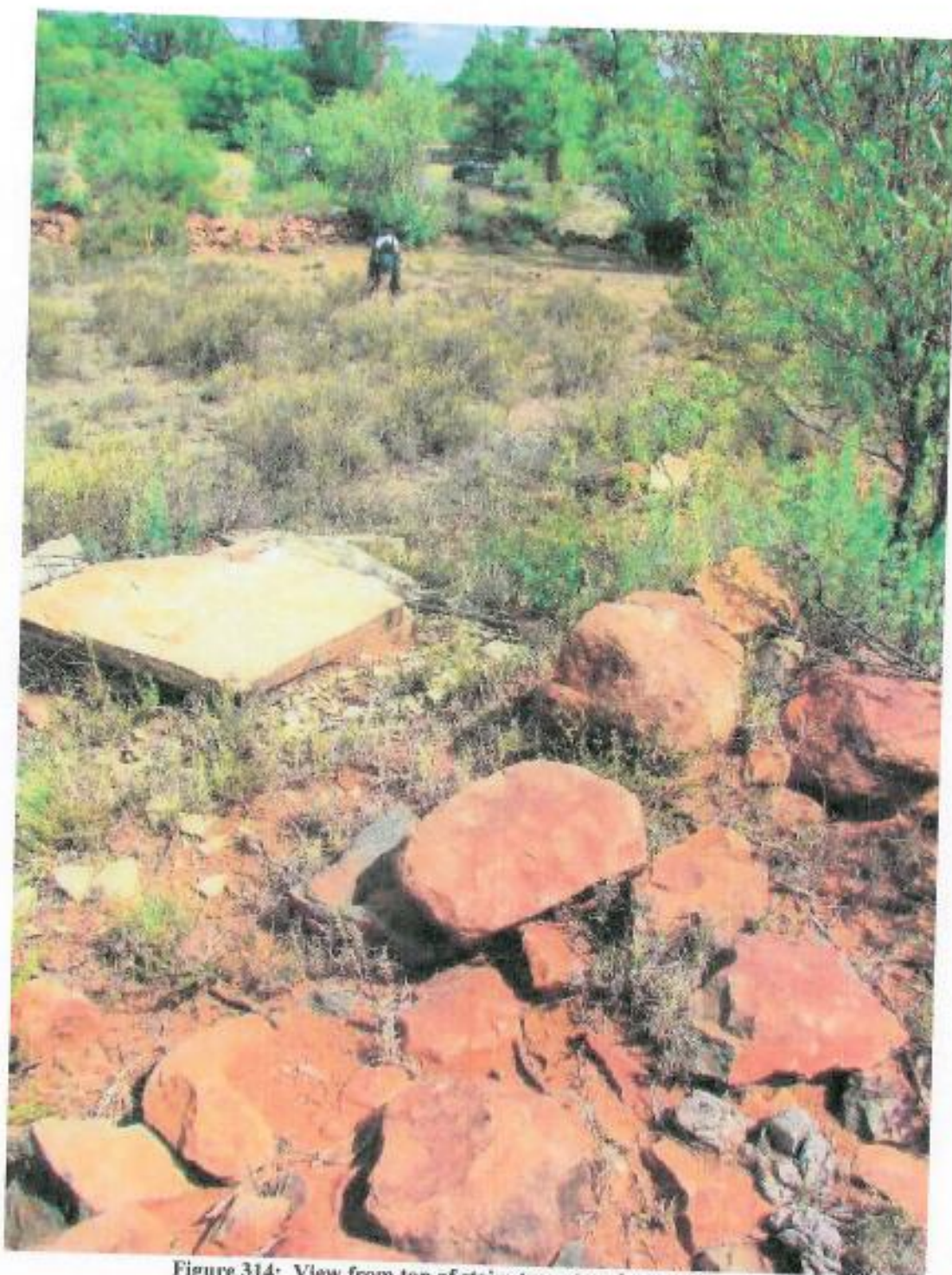


Figure 314: View from top of stairs to eastern boundary wall

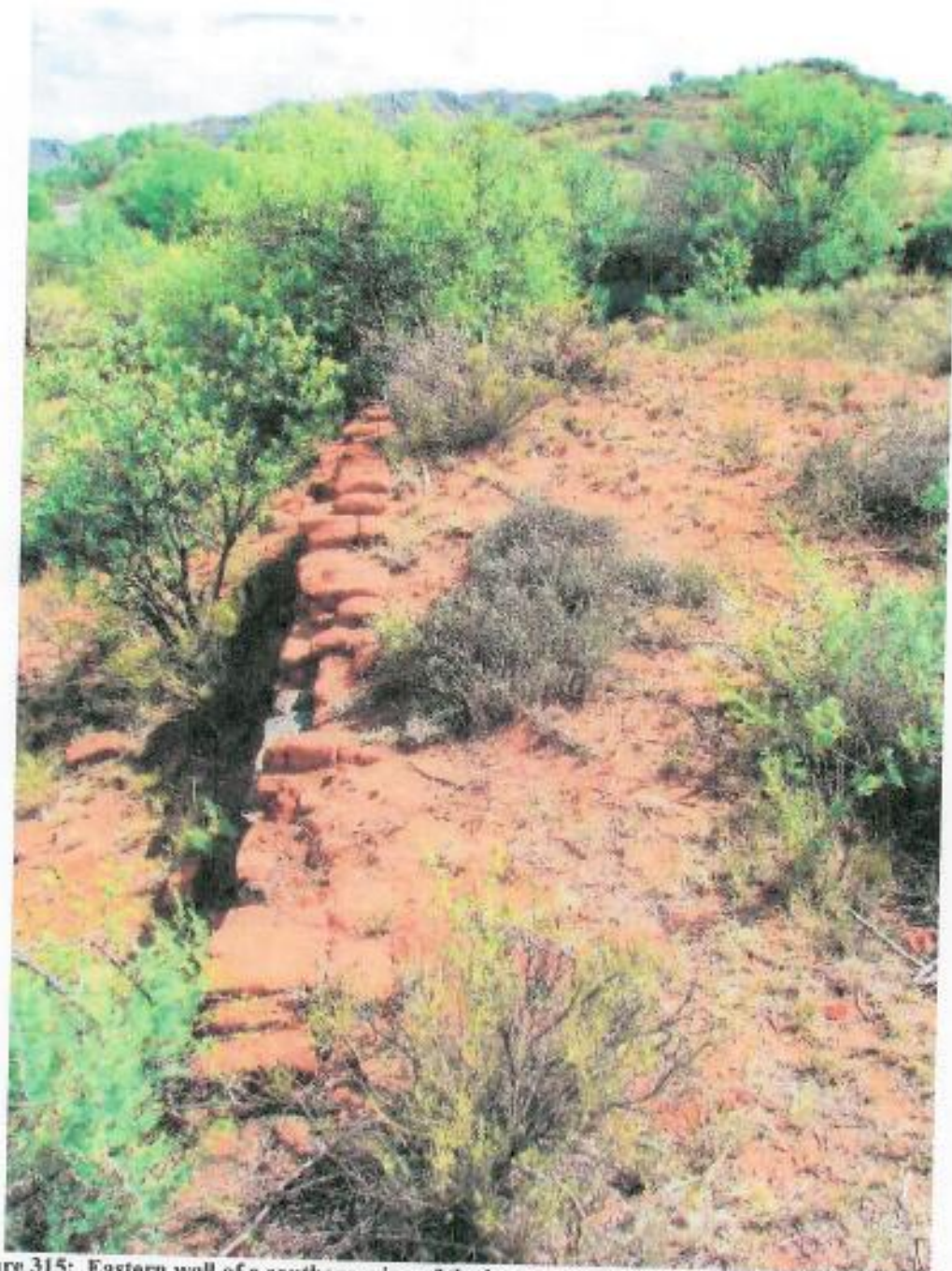


Figure 315: Eastern wall of a southern wing of the house – stone foundation with layer of bricks on top (orientation south)



Figure 316: Front view of eastern wing (orientation south-west)



Figure 317: Front view of eastern wing – orientation west



Figure 318: Position of water pipe (enlarged inset) in relation to foundation of house remains in the middle of the stone enclosed yard – encircled area is northern wall of house (Orientation of photograph south-west)



Figure 319: Northern boundary wall of "farmstead"

Surface finds: midden



Figure 320



Figure 321: Portion of bottle with spouted lip

Figure 322: Buttons and key





Figure 323: Ceramic fragment with Japanese print



Figure 324: Ceramic Sherds (Single colour printed whitewares – post 1820s)



Figure 325: Enos bottle lid – 19th century



Figure 326: Top bottle fragment is an egg-ended Codd which dates to between 1872 and 1930s. Crown-top fragment at bottom of photograph was manufactured by hand-operated machine (\pm 1881-1920)

Figure 327: A variety of ceramic fragments – all dating to late 19th/early 20th century

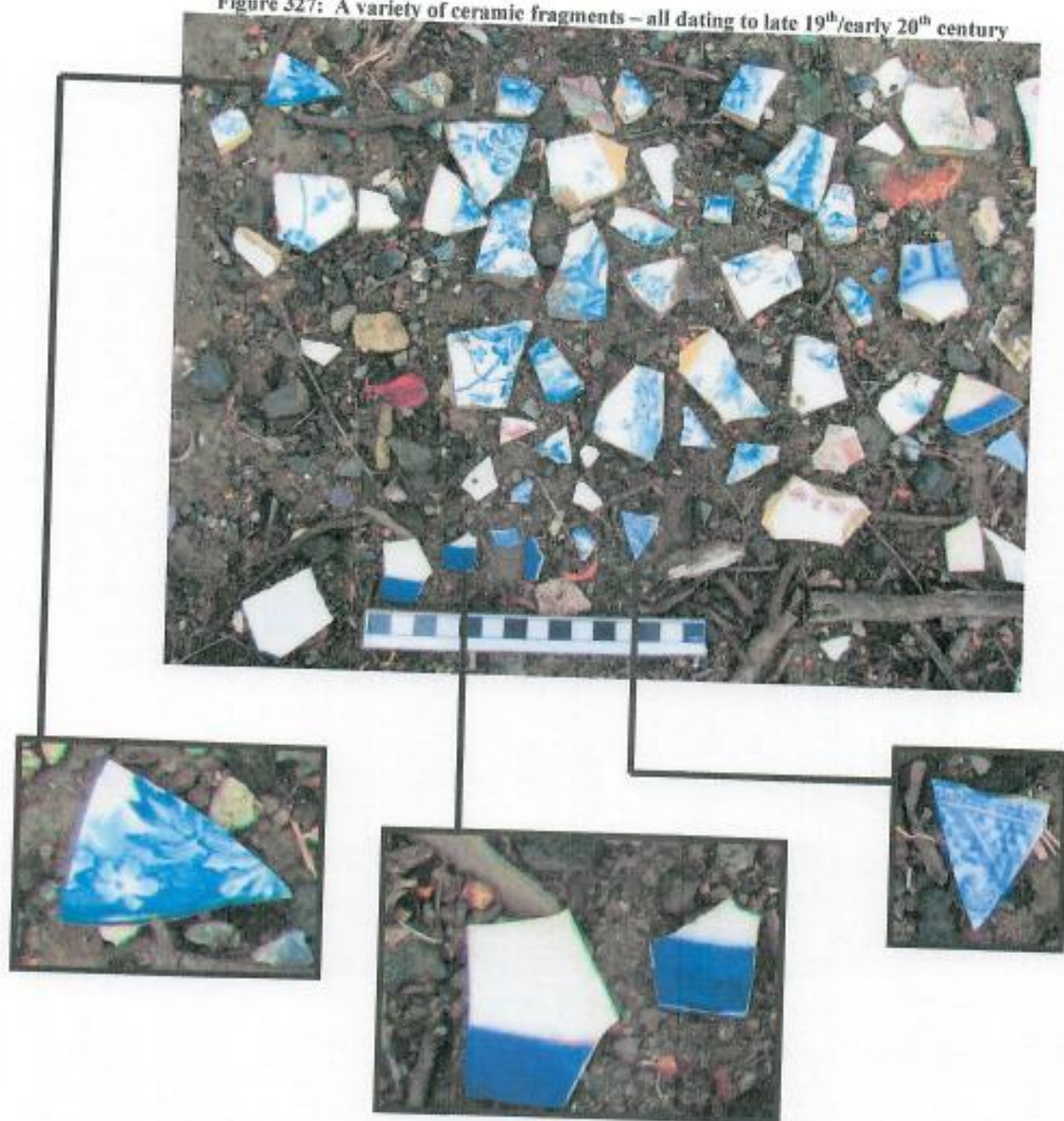


Figure 328: Glass items from midden





Figure 329



Figure 330



Figure 331 (group)

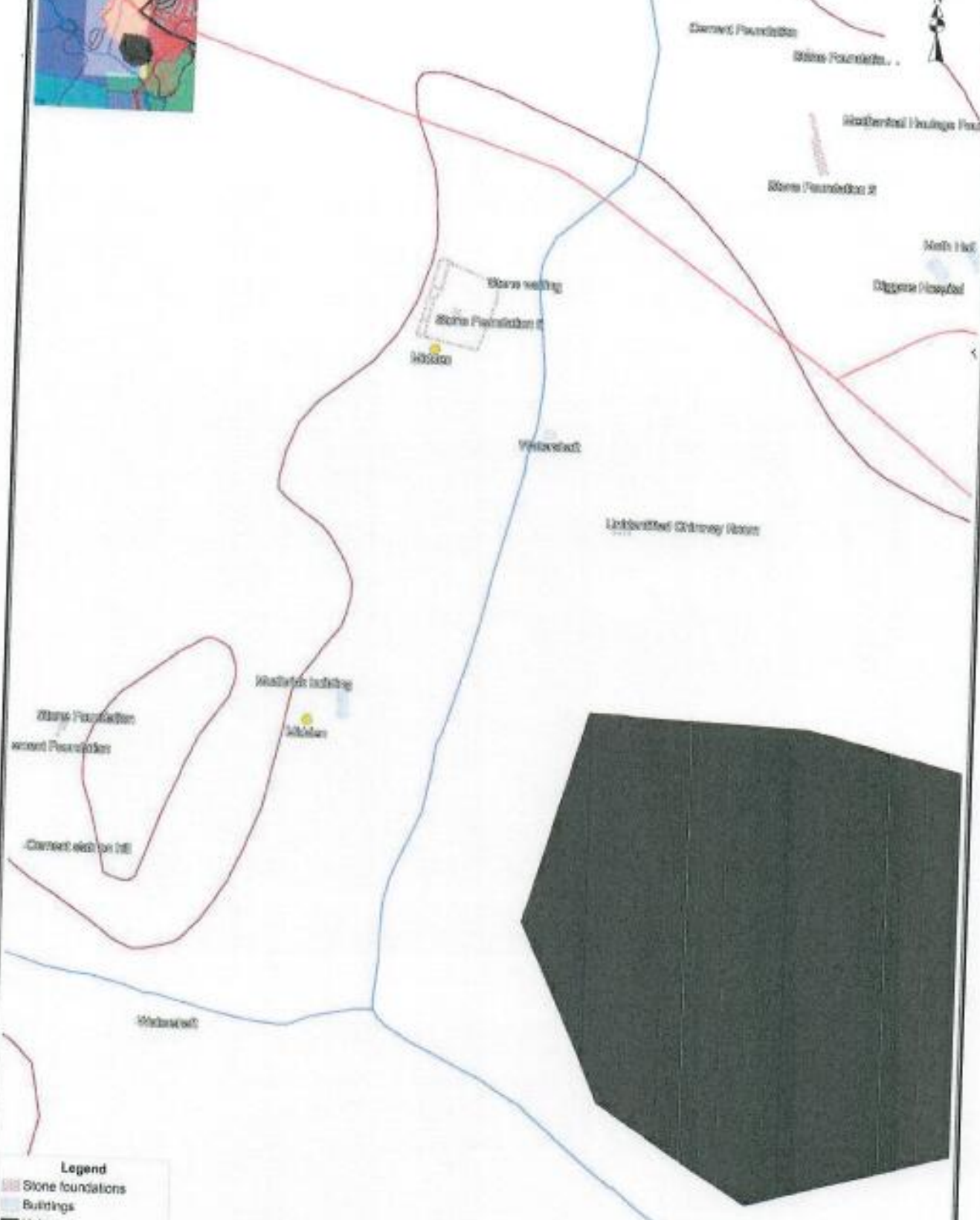


Fig 332: Fragments of glass and ceramics dating to the late 19th/early 20th century



The original farmstead of the farm Jagersfontein:

Because of the uncertainty regarding the location of the original farmstead, it is useful to compare the two farmsteads (i.e. the unidentified mudstone building on page 215 – 225 and the stonewalled farmstead on pages 230 – 247) with each other. In the following map on page 249 one can see that both are located "west of the open pit mine" as some earlier reports referred to the location of this farmstead. (The mudstone structure is approximately 450m south of the stonewalled structure.) Both have middens (rubbish dumps) that could be associated with a normal household with the exception that the mudstone structure also has surface scatters of equipment that can be linked to earlier mining activities which would also not be strange if one bears in mind that the first miners were family and neighbours of the owner, Mrs Visser and some of these people are likely to have stayed at the old farmstead. We also read in the earlier records that the government offices was in the early years (pre 1881 when the new Government Offices in town was completed and the old farmhouse evacuated) situated in the old farmstead situated "immediately west of the open pit mine" which would suggest the mudstone structure. This might explain the difference in quantity of more refined household ceramic fragments found on the surface at the mudstone structure, compared to that of the surface of the midden at the stonewalled structure. It would also explain the addition of the plaster to the walls and the cement foundation on the southern side of the mudstone structure. The question remains, if one of these two buildings was the old farmstead, what was the purpose of the other? One of the previous mine managers, Mr Debell, is also reported to have lived "in the old farmstead". It is possible that there could have been more than one old farmstead and only a proper investigation will shed more light on this. Since both these structures are recommended to be mitigated on account of being older than 60 years and most likely date to 19th century, the answer might be forthcoming from the results of that.



Legend

- Stone foundations
- Buildings
- Hole



Jagersfontein Heritage Impact Assessment
"Farmstead" buildings
31/03/2009

